GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:803
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2001
ENERGY UTILISATION
RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether energy utilisation from coal is only about 5%, rest being lost;

(b) the details of fossil fuel can be allowed to be used with such low efficiency and environmental degradation during power generation;

(c) whether any study has been made on excessive manpower; and

(d) if so, the details in regard to cost, being borne by SEBs?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) : No, Sir. Nearly 65% of power generation in India uses coal as fuel, which is found to be the most cost effective option fuel-wise. Power generating stations use pulverized coal boiler technology, which converts coal to electricity at about 35% to 38% thermal efficiency. With the advancement in the boiler technology, it would be possible to achieve ever higher conversion efficiencies. National Thermal Power Corporation is currently considering introduction of super-critical boiler technology in some of their proposed new power plants which would further improve the conversion efficiency to about 40% resulting in substantial utilization of energy form coal.

(b) : Most of the power plants generally operate within the environmental regulatory norms prescribed by Ministry of Environment & Forests with minimal environmental degradation. Appropriate measures are being taken in the power stations to keep the emission of CO_2 and SOx within the permissible limits set out by the environmental standards and regulations. Constant monitoring of these is also being carried out by the power station authorities as well as the Central and State Pollution Control Boards.Utilization of fly ash has also considerably increased due to sincere efforts by Utilities.

(c) & (d) : No specific study has been made to assess the excessive manpower in generating stations.